28th January 1929]

(d) for what period the staff worked;
(e) whether the investigation has been completed; and
(f) if so, with what result?

A.—(a) to (d) A copy [a] of the Chief Engineer's letter No. 67/27-C-3, dated 1st December 1927, together with the Rajahmundry Sub-divisional Officer's letter No. 711 E., dated 29th July 1927, is laid on the table.

(e) & (f) The investigation has not yet been completed. The staff will work from 1st February 1929 to 31st May 1929 and it is expected that it will complete the investigation in that period.

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—"May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether the necessary funds will be sanctioned for the entertainment of the staff for four months to complete the work?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"Yes, Sir, unless the Council raises any objection."

Progress of the Polavaram Island project.

*1010 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) in what stage is Polavaram Island project in East Godavari; and

(b) whether the Coringa Island project in East Godavari is proposed to be taken up by Government as soon as the above project approaches completion?

A.—(a) The execution of the Polavaram Island project is in progress. The probable outlay to the end of the current official year will be about Rs. 10·35 lakhs as against the estimate of Rs. 14·06 lakhs for the project. By the 31st March 1929 all the important component works will have been completed.

(b) For the Coringa Island project, the Chief Engineer submitted an estimate of Rs. 14·03 lakhs in July 1927. The Revenue estimates showed that with a water-rate of Rs. 6-4-0 per acre, the return that could be expected was only 3 per cent on the capital outlay including arrears of simple interest. A water-rate of at least Rs. 12-8-0 would be required to make the scheme productive, and it is very doubtful whether such a rate would be profitable or could be realized as the cultivable lands in the island are reported to be saline. The tract is not subject to famine and hence the project could not be taken up as a protective work. In these circumstances further consideration of the project was abandoned.

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—"May I know whether any enquiries were made to show that the ryots concerned are not prepared to pay more than 3 per cent?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"The difficulty is that although it might be possible to get a few optimistic ryots to agree to pay more,

[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 127-128 infra.

the land is reported to be saline and it is very doubtful whether it will be productive and whether it will pay them, in which case it would be useless for Government to impose high rates."

Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—"May I know whether if the income is not more than 3 per cent the Government would not take it up?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—"No, Sir, that is not the point."

Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu :—"May I know whether the Government have any fixed standard of income in view before they take up any work?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—"Yes, Sir; the work must pay 6 per cent in ten years of the completion of the work. That is a well known rule."

Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—"May I know what the rule is with regard to Mettur?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—"That is the rule, Sir."

Cost and utility of the Pottanur project in East Godavari.

*1011 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. Swami : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the consideration of the Pottanur project in East Godavari has been completed;

(b) what the project is likely to cost; and

(c) what purpose it is expected to serve?

A.—(a) & (b) An estimate amounting to Rs. 40,000 has been sanctioned and an allotment of Rs. 20,000 has been made for the work in the current year's budget. The work is in progress.

(c) The scheme is for the extension of irrigation under the Ellore canal in the Godavari western delta. It provides for the irrigation of 1,922 acres of dry lands and an extent of 574 acres of settlement wet and bapat wet lands under two existing tanks which are at present fed by channels from the Ellore canal but will be abandoned after the execution of the scheme under reference.

Mr. D. Narayana Raju :—"May I know, out of this year's allotment of Rs. 20,000, what amount has been spent up to date?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—"Notice, Sir."

Land Revenue

Lands resumed on account of the assignees' failure to pay the assessment.

*1012 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty : With reference to the answer to question No. 527, answered on 11th October 1928, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table of the House the report he has received from South Kanara regarding the lands resumed year after year on account of the assignees' failure to pay the assessment?

A.—The report [a] received from the Collector of South Kanara is laid on the table.

[a] Circulated separately.